

Calday Grange Grammar School



Year 7

Subject Curriculum Statements

2020-21

Art

Year 7 pupils have been continuing with their basic skills unit this half term. Developing knowledge and understanding in key areas such as perspective and colour theory. Students will be moving on to creating Zentangle patterns looking at various artists for inspiration. We will be developing confidence in drawing animals or insects and understanding key design techniques including compositional arrangements. Students will be encouraged to make their own creations to develop their own personal expression and creativity.

Students have been taught using different formats this term including live Google meet lessons and assignments posted on Google Classroom including additional resources. Students have had detailed feedback about their work and progress during Google Meet lessons and posted on Google Classroom. Student engagement has been closely monitored by the class teacher and work has been continually assessed via written comments or audio notes.

Biology

During the remote learning period, your son has continued to cover the Reproductive systems of animals and plants as part of the year 7 scheme of work. The next topic will cover concepts such as Respiration, Heart and Lung structure, Muscles and the Skeleton. Remote learning has been delivered with a combination of Google meets, recorded PowerPoints, topic videos and good quality, meaningful tasks to support learning of content. Live meets, the classroom stream, Google quizzes and handed in assignments have provided ample opportunity to assess and give feedback to students on their learning of key content. When students return to face-to-face teaching, the Biology Department plan that students will sit a written test on the Reproductive system and students will be given plenty of notice to prepare for this opportunity to revise concepts with their teacher in lessons.

Chemistry

In Chemistry, the year 7 have covered the following topics - Introduction, Physical and Chemical Change, Elements, compounds and mixtures and Separating Mixtures. The topics covered during lockdown are Elements, compounds and mixtures, Separating Mixtures or Acids and Alkalis. Each student has access to a Google Classroom where the content is broken down lesson by lesson into folders containing relevant material such as PowerPoints and video links to support the booklet work. In addition to the Google classroom, staff are delivering content and supporting students through Google meets and Google stream.

Chinese

Year 7 pupils' learning in Chinese has not been affected very much by the lockdown. From September, a few basic topics have been delivered: numbers, age, introducing names and greetings. Chinese culture was introduced and CCTs were carried out as planned. Pupils have learned basic introduction of characters, radicals and pinyin pronunciation through lessons and online activities. Regular

homework was set to encourage independent research and analysis skills. Overall, Year7 pupils built a basic understanding in learning Chinese and the culture for their further interests and development. Pupils progress and lessons were monitored through the lockdown and teachers used google classroom and Mote to give feedback when necessary.

Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP)

In this academic year, MEP Year7 pupils were selected to participate in the MEP intense learning in October. They have finished not only the topics on Chinese culture, pronunciation system-Pinyin and tones, basic radicals and character composition policy, but also further topics on greetings, numbers, family members, age, birthdays, pets, self-introduction and hobbies.

The purpose of the programme is to produce highly motivated, highly skilled global citizens on their way to a high level of fluency in Mandarin. Apart from curriculum lessons, they attended after school and lunch sessions. The pupils have learned the skills of writing Chinese characters and are now using beautiful handwriting. Besides, their confidence in the other 3 skills: speaking, reading and listening, has given them a solid foundation in the language. This is an intensive and accelerated programme, consisting of a taught element, online learning, and enrichment culture activities. MEP pupils made advanced learning in Chinese and explored new skills for new opportunities in the future.

Computer Studies

Since the beginning of January the Year 7s have started their new Unit 3 Data Modelling. This involves students developing and practicing their skills with Google Sheets. This enables the students to analyse data on a level that allows them to sort, filter and create visual representations of data. By the end of this unit, the aim is for the students to become Data Masters.

So far, the students have discovered how useful spreadsheets can be with quick calculations, how to collect data with a Google Forms and of course how to model the data itself. We are currently looking into assessing the student's skills as we draw near to the end of the unit. After this unit they will be moving onto the first of the programming units using a block based programming language called Scratch. The students will learn the fundamentals of programming languages which they will be able to transfer to a text based language later on in the year.

Drama

During the first term, students were introduced to some basic theatre terminology and discovered how these were used within staging a piece of theatre. This fed into their first practical project which was an introduction to storytelling. In groups, students studied the social and historical context of famous children stories and learnt how a narrative structure was created. This was then followed up with a group exploration of Little Red Riding Hood where students

collaborated in staging their own contemporary version of the story. Vocal and physical acting skills were practically explored as well as the use of a narrator. Remotely, pupils have been exploring some projects based upon Roald Dahl, which have included some tasks related to script writing and costume design. We hope to explore these topics practically, upon returning to school.

DT From January 2021 we have been focusing on Plastics. Learning how to identify different plastics and how we use these around our homes. Pupils now know how plastic bottles are commercially manufactured using the 'Blow Moulding' process. This led nicely onto the topic sustainability, pupils have learnt about the 6 R's and the effects of plastic pollution on our environment. All pupils have been researching for alternative solutions to plastic, including biodegradable plastics made from seaweed and starch. We have been encouraging all of our pupils to become sustainably aware designers. Pupils have responded well to these 2 week assignments and have produced some outstanding work. In the weeks leading up to February half term pupils will be focusing on revision for their online Cross Cohort Task. Revision lists can be found on Google Classroom W/C 1st Feb.

English

Work done so far:

- During the first two weeks of term, students completed some research on Roald Dahl, before reading some of his short stories and completing tasks based on what they had read.
- In the weeks up to the February half term, students moved on to the History unit, with focus on spelling, punctuation & grammar, imaginative writing, travel writing and poetry.

Work after half term:

- Students will continue their work on the History unit. There will be particular focus on war poetry.
- They will finish the term with a Google Quiz on this topic.

French

In French, since January 2021, pupils' learning has continued to address the scheme of work following the theme of sports and hobbies. Over the last five weeks, students have been able to express opinions, expand their knowledge of key structures, begin to develop their translation skills and understand new grammatical structures connected to the various topics covered (such as the conjugation of new irregular verbs such as faire and the partitive article de). They have learned to describe the weather and the seasons, what sports they like and don't like to play or do, whether their friends or family do any sport (and how often) and discuss how they use technology. The curriculum has been delivered through blended teaching: we have taught using a combination of regular online Google meets and pre-recorded video lessons. Pupils were able to make use of newly acquired skills to attain a level 4, which indicates an ability to

understand and express positive and negative opinions, to use connective words to make complex sentences and to write and understand extended pieces of writing (i.e. around 100 words).

If, as expected, provision for remote teaching continues until 8th March, we will then move to a new topic in which students will learn the skills to describe the physical appearance of themselves and their family.

Games

During this period away from school Games lessons, the pupils have been asked to participate in any appropriate physical activities that they can safely manage in order for them to maintain and even augment their general well-being. In what is obviously a difficult time for all, challenges such as 'complete a 5Km run sometime in the next seven days' or 'walk for a total of 5hrs this week' have been issued to encourage pupils out of the house and to be physically active. Clearly every household has different restrictions, capabilities and freedoms and so the pupils should engage in the spirit of the request as much as possible.

Geography

During this period of online learning Year 7 Geography pupils have been working through the largely skills-based section of work relating to the use of maps in Geography. This includes an understanding of the different types of map that can be used to present information and how maps can be interpreted to learn about the nature of places. The work has been broken down into discrete sections so that pupils can build their understanding and competence with direction, the use of map symbols and a key, four and six figure grid references, the use of scale and ways of showing height on maps. These skills are then combined so that pupils can competently describe routes and identify physical and human features shown in map form. The pupils will have experience of using Ordnance Survey maps at different scales. Lessons have been blended with live Google Meet sessions supporting independent structured lessons posted to Google classroom.

German

Since the start of lockdown in January, the pupils have started working on the third unit of their Year 7 course. This has focussed on talking about hobbies and free time and being able to give their opinions about different activities.

The pupils have been looking at word order and how it differs to English word order, keeping the verb second in a normal sentence. They have also been looking at how to use the adverb *gern* in their own sentences.

The class has received one lesson taught online each week and the third lesson is work set on Google Classroom. All work is designed to

be completed within the allocated 50 minutes for each lesson and no homework has been given over and above this commitment. The pupils will be assessed using an open-book CCT, which will allow them to demonstrate their understanding, rather than having to spend extra time learning vocabulary and demonstrate their knowledge, which we feel is better-suited to the current situation.

History

In History this term, Year 7s have continued their investigations into aspects of medieval life using blended learning, with live Meets interspersed with time set aside for work completion. Last term, the main focus was on those who held power - the medieval monarchs - but students have recently switched their focus to the everyday lives of medieval people. Year 7 students have had the opportunity to complete their own 'mini-lessons' based on their choice from a range of topics including food, football and fashion. This task enabled them to show their skills of selective research, clear and analytical communication and allowed them to be creative in their presentation. In addition, students have had the opportunity to consider what else was happening in other places at the same time as the medieval events they have studied through their 'Meanwhile, Elsewhere...' investigation, which has given them a broader appreciation of medieval world history. Lessons have now moved on to medieval religion, and this will be followed by a study of the Crusades - their causes and impact.

Mathematics

In maths during the current lockdown, all classes have continued to go through the scheme of work as detailed in the Revision List on the maths Google Drive. The topics covered include functions, formulae, perimeter, area, units, ratio and proportion. There is still a weekly MathsWatch homework to complete, consolidating the topics learnt in online lessons. On return to school we will continue to complete CCTs in class, making sure that we review the work completed in lockdown to help students to consolidate the topics taught. The schemes of work in maths are built over a 5 year course and we return to topics almost every year. At the start of each section of work, we review the knowledge students already have and then build new concepts into the topic. This means that the work that we have covered during lockdown will be taught again in the future. This may alleviate any concerns students have about the maths content learnt during the lockdown period.

Music

YEAR 7: MINIMALISM and MUSIC THEORY

Year 7 spent the Autumn Term learning about the musical elements: Pitch, Tempo, Rhythm and Pulse, Dynamics and Timbre. They learnt about rhythm and explored the different note values. They also completed a unit of work using boomwhackers which introduced the notes of the Treble Clef.

Since January students have continued their learning of pulse and looking at the differences between rhythm and pulse. They have completed rhythm grids and been given feedback on questions they have answered on 'Pulse and Rhythm in a Structure'. We have gone on to learn about the features of Minimalism and how it is related to other art forms. They have looked at the composers of the Monotonous School and looked specifically at Steve Reich and 'Clapping Music'. Students have completed lessons on the Treble and Bass Clef completing lessons and quizzes. Most lessons have been taught through google meet since January. Students will be completing a CCT on the Treble and Bass Clef either in the week immediately before or immediately after half term depending when their lesson falls.

After half term students will continue to explore Minimalism and learn how to play Tubular Bells by Mike Oldfield either using the QWERTY keyboard or a 'real' keyboard if they have access to one at home. They will move on to learn about the instruments of the Orchestra.

Physics

Earlier this year students covered topics on forces and energy, after completing an initial introduction to physics and measurement. More recently they have been studying waves and sound, and are moving into a topic on magnetism. Work both in and out of school is based around the booklets, with Google Classroom and other online materials used to supplement and facilitate their use. Whilst at home students have had regular contact via Google Meet or Stream.

RE

Up to now

Pupils have been working on a unit of work called the Island which highlights key themes within RE, eg, Rites of Passage, and using examples from Judaism by way of illustration

From now

They have recently started a unit on care for creation which will continue until the end of term